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Thirtieth session
1-5 March 1999
Agenda item 15
Report of the Commission on its thirtieth session

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: M. D. **Asthana** (India)

Chapter ____

Finance statistics

(Agenda item 3 (d))

1. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 491st meeting, on 1 March 1999. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/1999/6).

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission recognized the concerns of countries about the complexities and high resource-intensiveness of measuring external debt, particularly for short-term liabilities of the corporate sector, and the need to compile and publish components of external debt based on creditor as well as debtor sources for improved data quality and accuracy. In this context, it also took note of ongoing efforts to compare alternative methods of measuring external debt and to enable the advantages and disadvantages of the available methods to be determined.

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Demographic, social and migration statistics

(Agenda item 4)

3. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 494th meeting, on 3 March 1999. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Progress report of the Secretary-General on demographic, social and migration statistics (E/CN.3/1999/9);

(b) Note by the Secretary General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on Draft Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System (E/CN.3/1999/10);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics (E/CN.3/1989/11);

(d) Draft Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2 (Provisional ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/19/Rev.2).

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Commended the work of the Expert Group on Draft Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, expressed its appreciation for the involvement of experts in civil registration and vital statistics from all regions in its review, as well as the United Nations Population Fund and the Pan American Health Organization, and welcomed the publication of the five related handbooks;

(b) Endorsed the provisional principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system (Provisional ST/ESA/SER.M/19/Rev.2) with the revisions proposed by the Expert Group on Draft Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, as provided in its report (E/CN.3/1999/10, annex);

(c) Took note of the point raised by the representative of France, namely that the concept of vital statistics in French differed from that in English and must be clearly defined in the principles and recommendations;

(d) Requested the Secretariat to publish the principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system as quickly as possible, in all the official languages of the United Nations;

(e) Took note of the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics (E/CN.3/1999/11, annex);

(f) Requested the Secretariat to resolve the question of the nomenclature related to Palestine contained in the progress report of the Secretary-General on demographic, social and migration statistics (E/CN.3/1999/9).

Environment statistics

(Agenda item 5)

5. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 494th meeting, on 3 March 1999. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/1999/12);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting (E/CN.3/1999/13).

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission:

(a) Approved the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division in the field of environment statistics;

(b) Approved the suggestion made by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at its thirty-second session that the Task Force on Environment Statistics be discontinued;

(c) Stressed the need for continued coordination in environment statistics and approved the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities carrying out such coordination to the extent possible;

(d) Welcomed the work of the London Group on Environmental Accounting towards the revision of the system of integrated environmental-economic accounting (SEEA).